

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A fluid removal apparatus for patient treatment comprising:

a tube having a forward end and a rear end;

a body having at least one can of a compressed gas therein and an opening for releasing said compressed gas, said tube being attached to said opening in said body; and

a trigger means attached to said body, and said trigger means adapted to cause said gas to be released from said body thereby causing a suction effect at said forward end of said tube by regulating the flow of compressed gas from said cans of compressed gas out of said rear end of said tube.

2. (Currently amended) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 1, [which] wherein said forward end of said tube is fitted with a coupling for securing an attachment thereto.

3. (Withdrawn) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein there are two or more cans of compressed gas.

4. (Withdrawn) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said cans are connected by an export duct.

5. (Original) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said body has a battery,

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said battery connected to resistor wire, said resistor wire being wrapped around said can of compressed gas.

6. (Original) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said body has heat sensitive fuse blocks to prevent overheating.

7. (Currently amended) A fluid removal apparatus for patient treatment device comprising:

a tube having a forward end and a rear end;

a cap attaching said tube to a can of compressed gas; and[,]

a trigger attached to said cap, said trigger adapted to control a suction effect at said forward end of said tube by regulating the flow of compressed gas from said cans of compressed gas out of said rear end of said tube.

8. (Original) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said forward end of said tube is fitted with a coupling for an attachment.

9. (Original) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said cap makes an airtight seal with said can of compressed gas.

10. (Original) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said can of compressed gas has a release valve.

11. (Original) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said release valve is

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controlled by said trigger.

12. (Withdrawn) A fluid removal apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said can of compressed gas is connected to said tube by an export duct.

13. (Currently amended) A hand-held, self-contained fluid removal apparatus comprising:

a tube having a forward end and a rear end;

a cap attaching said tube to a can of compressed gas;

a trigger attached to said cap, said trigger adapted to control a suction effect at said forward end of said tube by regulating the flow of compressed gas from said cans of compressed gas out of said rear end of said tube; and[,]

a container attached to said rear end of said tube.

14. (Currently amended) A container for receiving gases, fluids, and solids comprising:

an open end;

an attachment port on a surface of said container; and[,]

a filter removably attached to said attachment port, said filter being adapted to allow gas to escape while inhibiting the release of liquid, polluted gas and solids.

15. (Original) A container according to claim 14 wherein said open end is adapted to create an airtight seal.

16. (Original) A container according to claim 14 wherein said open end has a sealing means which allows the container to be sealed airtightly.

17. (Original) A container according to claim 16 wherein said sealing means is an adhesive strip.

18. (Original) A container according to claim 16 wherein said sealing means is a cap adapted to fit airtightly over said open end of said container.

19. (Currently amended) A method of removing fluids, gases, or solids from the airway or wound site of a patient comprising:

positioning a tube in said airway or said wound site, said tube being attached to a fluid removal apparatus which comprises a tube having a forward end and a rear end, a cap attaching said tube to a can of compressed gas, and a trigger attached to said cap, said trigger adapted to control a suction effect at said forward end of said tube by regulating the flow of compressed gas from said can[s] of compressed gas out of said rear end of said tube;

applying pressure to said trigger to create a suction effect at said front end of said tube; and, suctioning liquids, gases, or solids from said airway or said wound site.

20. (Currently amended) A method of removing fluids, gases, or solids from the airway or wound site of a patient comprising:

positioning a tube in said airway or said wound site, said tube being attached to a fluid

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removal apparatus which comprises a tube having a forward end and a rear end, a cap attaching said tube to a can of compressed gas, a trigger attached to said cap, said trigger adapted to control a suction effect at said forward end of said tube by regulating the flow of compressed gas from said can[s] of compressed gas out of said rear end of said tube, and a container attached to said rear end of said tube;

applying pressure to said trigger to create a suction effect at said front end of said tube;  
and, suctioning liquids, gases, or solids from said airway or said wound site.